

Arkansas Education Report
Volume 20, Issue 5

**OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE AWARDS:
HIGHLIGHTING HIGH-GROWTH ARKANSAS SCHOOLS, 2023**

**BEATING THE ODDS: HIGH-GROWTH SCHOOLS
BASED ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS,
SERVING LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES**

October 11, 2023

By:

Sarah C. McKenzie

**Office for Education Policy
University of Arkansas
214 Graduate Education Building
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: (479) 575-3773
Fax: (479) 575-3196
E-mail: oe@uark.edu**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
IV. 2023 OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS - HIGH GROWTH SCHOOLS, BASED ON THE ACT AS- PIRE EXAMINATIONS, SERVING LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES	41
J. Elementary Schools “Beating the Odds”	42
Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023	42
Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023	43
Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023	47
K. Middle Schools “Beating the Odds”	51
Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023	51
Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023	52
Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023	56
L. High Schools “Beating the Odds”	60
Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023	60
Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023	61
Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023	65
Appendix	A1

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Office for Education Policy is to examine educational issues through the lens of academic research and disseminate our findings to educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders around Arkansas. Annually, we highlight excellent schools around the state in our **Outstanding Educational Performance Awards**, or the OEP awards.

This edition of the **OEP Awards** highlights schools in Arkansas based on student growth on the ACT Aspire exams in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA).

We choose to focus on student growth for these OEP awards because we think it is a better reflection than proficiency rates of how the school is impacting students. Growth is calculated at the student level, and essentially reflects how much a student improved his or her score from the prior year compared to what was predicted based on prior achievement history. In this case, the calculations are based on the 2021-22 scores. Proficiency rates, even those that move beyond the ‘percent proficient’ like our OEP GPA and Arkansas’ weighted achievement score, are more correlated with student demographics than growth scores. This means that schools can demonstrate high student growth regardless of the characteristics of the students that they serve.

In the 2022-23 academic year, ACT Aspire examinations were administered to students in grades 3 through 10 in Math, Reading, Writing, English, and Science. The scores obtained in Reading, Writing, and English were combined to create an overall score for English Language Arts (ELA).

For the purposes of these awards, we are using the content-area growth calculated and reported by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Note that we used only growth for math and English Language Arts, excluding the growth score for English Learner progress to English Language Proficiency. In addition, we identify the highest growth schools by school level as identified by the ADE under Arkansas’ ESSA Plan: Elementary, Middle, and High school level.

In this report, we present a list of the top 20 schools in the state for Overall growth (average of Math and ELA growth), Math growth, and ELA growth. In some cases, these “top 20 lists” will contain more than 20 schools as some schools’ growth scores will be identical.

This week we will focus on high-growth elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the various regions across the state. We will conclude this edition of the report by highlighting schools that are beating the odds (that is, schools that have high levels of student growth while serving a high percentage of low-income students).

We are pleased to be able to highlight how students are growing academically in schools across the state, and hope the information will spark discussion among stakeholders about how to ensure all schools are growing the knowledge of Arkansas students.

IV. 2023 OEP AWARDS: BEATING THE ODDS - HIGH GROWTH SCHOOLS, BASED ON THE ACT ASPIRE EXAMINATIONS, SERVING LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES

This section highlights high-growth schools across Arkansas based on the ACT Aspire examinations in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) for the 2022-23 academic year. For these awards, we consider schools where at least 66% of the student body is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL).

High-poverty schools are ranked by school level (Elementary, Middle, or High) based on Overall Growth (Math and ELA combined), as well as for growth in each content area independently. High-poverty schools are also ranked within each region of the state. Tables include the region in which the school is located, the number of test takers and the growth score of that school in the relevant content area.

J. Elementary Schools “Beating the Odds”

Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 55: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on Overall ACT Aspire Growth (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	83%	82	87.67
2	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	71%	229	87.62
3	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	96	87.29
4	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	68%	125	86.38
5	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	82%	128	85.97
6	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	Southwest	K-6	77%	125	85.42
7	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	82%	275	85.34
8	Lake Hamilton Elementary (Lake Hamilton)	Central	2-3	69%	263	85.26
8	Lake Hamilton Primary (Lake Hamilton)	Central	K-1	72%	263	85.26
9	Hill Farm Elementary (Bryant)	Central	K-5	69%	280	85.11
10	Linda Childers Knapp Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	88%	301	84.86

Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 56: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	71%	228	88.34
2	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	96	88.27
3	Hill Farm Elementary (Bryant)	Central	K-5	69%	280	87.69
4	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside (Chicot))	Southeast	P-3	92%	16	87.08
5	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	68%	125	86.98
6	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	Northeast	K-6	76%	303	86.96
7	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	82%	275	86.65
8	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	Southwest	K-6	77%	125	86.44
9	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	82%	128	86.26
10	Linda Childers Knapp Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	88%	301	85.75

Tables 57-61: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Growth



Table 57: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	71%	228	88.34
2	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	K-4	76%	96	88.27
3	Monitor Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	82%	275	86.65
4	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	82%	128	86.26
5	Linda Childers Knapp Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	88%	301	85.75



Table 58: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Gosnell Elementary (Gosnell)	K-6	76%	303	86.96
2	Hillcrest Elementary (Hillcrest)	K-6	82%	107	85.67
3	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	68%	45	84.80
4	North Elementary (Osceola)	P-K	91%	133	84.68
4	Carroll Smith Elementary (Osceola)	1-4	93%	133	84.68
5	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	66%	220	84.17



Table 59: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Hill Farm Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	69%	280	87.69
2	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	68%	125	86.98
3	Wakefield Elementary (Little Rock)	K-5	97%	188	85.20
4	Lake Hamilton Elementary (Lake Hamilton)	2-3	69%	263	85.12
4	Lake Hamilton Primary (Lake Hamilton)	K-1	72%	263	85.12
5	Jessieville Elementary (Jessieville)	P-5	77%	136	83.92
5	Robert L. Davis Elementary (Bryant)	K-5	70%	251	83.92



Table 60: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	77%	125	86.44
2	Nashville Primary (Nashville)	K-3	73%	132	84.92
3	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	73%	361	84.67
4	DeQueen Elementary (DeQueen)	3-5	75%	498	84.35
4	DeQueen Primary (DeQueen)	K-2	75%	498	84.35
5	Murfreesboro Elementary (South Pike County)	K-6	76%	182	84.30



Table 61: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Eudora Elementary (Lakeside (Chicot))	P-3	92%	16	87.08
2	Eastside Elementary (Warren)	K-3	76%	92	84.84
3	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	92%	176	84.30
4	C.B. Partee Elementary (Brinkley)	K-6	81%	105	82.55
5	Anna Strong Learning Academy (Lee County)	P-6	94%	142	82.52

Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 62: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	Northwest	P-3	83%	82	91.54
2	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	Northwest	K-5	71%	229	86.95
3	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	Northwest	K-4	76%	96	86.31
4	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	Central	P-4	68%	125	85.79
5	Theodore Jones Elementary (Conway)	Central	K-4	68%	161	85.78
6	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	Northwest	K-4	82%	128	85.69
7	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	Northeast	K-3	74%	77	85.62
8	Lake Hamilton Elementary (Lake Hamilton)	Central	2-3	69%	263	85.41
8	Lake Hamilton Primary (Lake Hamilton)	Central	K-1	72%	263	85.41
9	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	Northeast	2-4	71%	138	84.95
9	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	Northeast	P-1	75%	138	84.95
10	College Station Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	Central	P-5	73%	49	84.92

Tables 63-68: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Elementary Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA** Growth



Table 63: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Green Forest Elementary (Green Forest)	P-3	83%	82	91.54
2	John Tyson Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	71%	229	86.95
3	S.C. Tucker Elementary (Danville)	K-4	76%	96	86.31
4	Asbell Elementary (Fayetteville)	K-4	82%	128	85.69
5	Bayyari Elementary (Springdale)	K-5	90%	230	84.77



Table 64: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Sidney Deener Elementary (Searcy)	K-3	74%	77	85.62
2	Woodrow Wilson Elementary (Paragould)	2-4	71%	138	84.95
	Paragould Primary (Paragould)	P-1	75%	138	84.95
3	Salem Elementary (Salem)	K-6	66%	220	84.12
4	Pocahontas Elementary (Pocahontas)	P-3	70%	112	83.76
5	Weiner Elementary (Harrisburg)	K-6	68%	45	83.54



Table 65: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Central** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Westside Elementary (Cabot)	P-4	68%	125	85.79
2	Theodore Jones Elementary (Conway)	K-4	68%	161	85.78
3	Lake Hamilton Elementary (Lake Hamilton)	2-3	69%	263	85.41
3	Lake Hamilton Primary (Lake Hamilton)	K-1	72%	263	85.41
4	College Station Elementary (Pulaski County Special)	P-5	73%	49	84.92
5	Meadow Park Elementary (North Little Rock)	P-5	96%	191	84.71



Table 66: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southwest** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Oscar Hamilton Elementary (Foreman)	K-6	77%	125	84.39
2	Nashville Elementary (Nashville)	4-6	73%	361	83.00
3	North Heights Community (Texarkana)	P-6	81%	122	82.58
4	Centerpoint Elementary (Centerpoint)	K-5	76%	193	82.46
5	Fairview Elementary (Texarkana)	K-5	81%	98	82.39



Table 67: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Elementary Schools in **Southeast** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (KIPP Delta)	P-5	92%	173	83.46
2	Dermott Elementary (Dermott)	K-6	94%	88	82.19
3	McGehee Elementary (McGehee)	K-5	81%	206	81.73
4	Des Arc Elementary (Des Arc)	P-6	72%	176	81.26
5	Thomas C. Brunson Elementary (Warren)	4-5	72%	189	80.80

K. Middle Schools “Beating the Odds”

Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 68: Top 10 “**High-Poverty**” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on **Overall ACT Aspire Growth** (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Forrest City Junior High (Forrest City)	Northeast	7-8	80%	247	84.66
2	eStem Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	68%	369	84.59
3	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	Northwest	5-8	66%	271	83.80
4	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	72%	259	83.73
5	LISA Academy Springdale (LISA Academy)	Northwest	K-8	66%	197	83.57
6	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	Southeast	6-8	92%	164	83.38
7	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	Southwest	5-8	84%	206	83.20
8	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	6-8	83%	257	82.95
9	Highland Middle (Highland)	Northeast	5-8	72%	424	82.87
10	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	Southwest	6-7	77%	328	82.86

Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 69: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	Northwest	5-8	66%	271	86.35
2	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	Southwest	6-7	77%	328	85.60
3	Forrest City Junior High (Forrest City)	Northeast	7-8	80%	247	85.06
4	eStem Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	68%	369	85.02
5	Star City Middle (Star City)	Southeast	6-8	70%	311	84.68
6	Warren Middle (Warren)	Southeast	6-8	70%	339	84.38
7	LISA Academy Springdale (LISA Academy)	Northwest	K-8	66%	197	84.11
8	Highland Middle (Highland)	Northeast	5-8	72%	424	84.02
9	Helen Tyson Middle (Springdale)	Northwest	6-7	84%	686	84.01
10	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	72%	259	83.74

Tables 70-74: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math** Growth



Table 70: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Atkins Middle (Atkins)	5-8	66%	271	86.35
2	LISA Academy Springdale (LISA Academy)	K-8	66%	197	84.11
3	Helen Tyson Middle (Springdale)	6-7	84%	686	84.01
4	Morrilton Junior High (South Conway County)	7-8	71%	341	83.65
5	Greenland Middle (Greenland)	5-8	73%	201	82.72



Table 71: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Forrest City Junior High (Forrest City)	7-8	80%	247	85.06
2	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	72%	424	84.02
3	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	6-8	83%	257	83.33
4	Swifton Middle (Jackson County)	5-7	73%	186	81.43
5	Wonder Junior High (West Memphis)	7-9	89%	273	81.03



Table 72: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	eStem Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	7-9	68%	369	85.02
2	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	7-9	72%	259	83.74
3	Lonoke Middle (Lonoke)	6-8	68%	339	82.16
4	Jack Robey Middle (Pine Bluff)	7-9	81%	531	81.52
5	Bob Courtway Middle (Conway)	5-7	72%	440	80.61



Table 73: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	DeQueen Middle (DeQueen)	6-7	77%	328	85.60
2	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	5-8	84%	206	83.73
3	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	5-8	76%	155	82.47
4	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	5-6	89%	190	82.11
5	Arkansas Middle (Texarkana)	6-8	75%	787	80.21



Table 74: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	70%	311	84.68
2	Warren Middle (Warren)	6-8	70%	339	84.38
3	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	6-8	92%	164	83.04
4	Drew Central Middle (Drew Central)	5-8	75%	353	80.94
5	Lakeside Middle (Lakeside (Chicot))	6-8	85%	197	79.33

Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 62: Top 10 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Forrest City Junior High (Forrest City)	Northeast	7-8	80%	247	84.26
2	eStem Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	68%	369	84.15
3	Robert F. Morehead Middle (Pine Bluff)	Central	7-9	92%	182	83.99
4	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	Southeast	6-8	92%	164	83.72
5	Westwind School For Performing Arts (Westwind School For Performing Arts)	Central	6-8	80%	65	83.71
6	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	Central	7-9	72%	258	83.69
7	Clinton Junior High (Clinton)	Northwest	6-8	71%	276	83.35
8	LISA Academy Springdale (LISA Academy)	Northwest	K-8	66%	197	83.03
9	Friendship Aspire Academy Little Rock Middle (Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas)	Central	6-8	85%	53	82.99
10	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	Southwest	5-8	84%	206	82.66

Tables 76-80: Top 5 **High-Poverty** Middle Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA Growth**



Table 76: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Clinton Junior High (Clinton)	6-8	71%	276	83.35
2	LISA Academy Springdale (LISA Academy)	K-8	66%	197	83.03
3	Greenland Middle (Greenland)	5-8	73%	201	82.35
4	Pleasant View Campus (Mulberry/Pleasant View Bi-County Schools)	5-8	77%	109	81.90
5	Flippin Middle (Flippin)	5-8	71%	217	81.54



Table 77: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Forrest City Junior High (Forrest City)	7-8	80%	247	84.26
2	Cave City Middle Career And Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	6-8	83%	257	82.58
3	Wonder Junior High (West Memphis)	7-9	89%	273	82.16
4	Nettleton Junior High (Nettleton)	7-8	73%	480	81.85
5	Highland Middle (Highland)	5-8	72%	424	81.73



Table 78: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Central** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	eStem Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	7-9	68%	369	84.15
2	Robert F. Morehead Middle (Pine Bluff)	7-9	92%	182	83.99
3	Westwind School For Performing Arts (Westwind School For Performing Arts)	6-8	80%	65	83.71
4	eStem East Village Junior High Public Charter (eStem Public Charter School)	7-9	72%	258	83.69
5	Friendship Aspire Academy Little Rock Middle (Friendship Aspire Academies Arkansas)	6-8	85%	53	82.99



Table 79: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southwest** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Hope Academy of Public Service (Hope)	5-8	84%	206	82.66
2	Cabe Middle (Gurdon)	5-8	76%	155	82.38
3	Beryl Henry Upper Elementary (Hope)	5-6	89%	190	81.66
4	Nashville Junior High (Nashville)	7-9	70%	415	80.53
5	Yerger Junior High (Hope)	7-8	81%	181	80.18



Table 80: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Southeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	KIPP Delta College Prep (KIPP Delta)	6-8	92%	164	83.72
2	Conner Middle (McGehee)	6-8	73%	232	80.18
3	Meekins Middle (Stuttgart)	5-6	66%	187	80.06
4	Warren Middle (Warren)	6-8	70%	341	79.81
5	Star City Middle (Star City)	6-8	70%	311	79.74

L. High Schools “Beating the Odds”

Beating the Odds: Overall ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 81: Top 10 “**High-Poverty**” High Schools in Arkansas based on **Overall** ACT Aspire Growth (Math and ELA combined)

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Overall Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	Northeast	7-12	67%	52	84.94
2	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	69%	253	84.12
3	Decatur High (Decatur)	Northwest	9-12	71%	70	84.01
4	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	72%	176	83.45
5	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	67%	64	83.27
6	Dermott High (Dermott)	Southeast	7-12	94%	90	82.99
7	Greenland High (Greenland)	Northwest	9-12	66%	131	82.92
8	Oark High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	85%	41	82.86
9	Trumann High (Trumann)	Northeast	9-12	70%	216	82.67
10	Marshall High (Searcy County)	Northwest	7-12	70%	199	82.55

Beating the Odds: Math ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 82: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire Math Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	Northeast	7-12	67%	52	87.73
2	Trumann High (Trumann)	Northeast	9-12	70%	216	83.84
3	Decatur High (Decatur)	Northwest	9-12	71%	70	83.55
3	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	69%	253	83.55
4	Western Yell County High (Western Yell County)	Northwest	7-12	89%	91	83.11
5	Greenland High (Greenland)	Northwest	9-12	66%	131	82.91
6	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	Northeast	6-12	68%	250	82.88
7	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	72%	176	82.74
8	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	Southeast	7-12	68%	131	82.51
9	Dermott High (Dermott)	Southeast	7-12	94%	90	82.48
10	Marshall High (Searcy County)	Northwest	7-12	70%	199	82.37

Tables 83-87: Top 5 **High-Poverty** High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **Math Growth**



Table 83: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Decatur High (Decatur)	9-12	71%	70	83.55
1	Berryville High (Berryville)	9-12	69%	253	83.55
2	Western Yell County High (Western Yell County)	7-12	89%	91	83.11
3	Greenland High (Greenland)	9-12	66%	131	82.91
4	Marshall High (Searcy County)	7-12	70%	199	82.37
5	Oark High (Jasper)	7-12	85%	41	82.29



Table 84: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **Math ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	67%	52	87.73
2	Trumann High (Trumann)	9-12	70%	216	83.84
3	Cedar Ridge High (Cedar Ridge)	6-12	68%	250	82.88
4	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	72%	176	82.74
5	Maynard High (Maynard)	7-12	70%	153	82.34



Table 85: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Central** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Hot Springs World Class High (Hot Springs)	10-12	73%	221	81.63
2	North Little Rock High (North Little Rock)	9-12	70%	896	79.70
3	North Little Rock Center of Excellence (North Little Rock)	9-12	76%	190	79.68
4	LISA Academy West High (LISA Academy)	9-12	67%	202	79.28
5	Premier High of Little Rock (Premier High Schools Of Arkansas)	9-12	83%	18	79.23



Table 86: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southwest** Region based on **Math** ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	DeQueen Junior High (DeQueen)	8-9	72%	370	81.76
2	Ashdown High (Ashdown)	9-12	69%	181	81.75
3	Strong-Huttig (Strong-Huttig)	K-12	94%	163	81.02
4	Prescott High (Prescott)	9-12	68%	153	80.88
5	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	77%	53	80.42



Table 87: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in *Southeast* Region based on *Math* ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	Math Content Growth
1	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	68%	131	82.51
2	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	94%	90	82.48
3	Lakeside High (Lakeside (Chicot))	9-12	78%	133	81.70
4	KIPP Blytheville Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	7-12	86%	85	81.48
5	KIPP Delta Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	9-12	88%	105	80.21

Beating the Odds: ELA ACT Aspire, 2023

Table 88: Top 10 “High-Poverty” High Schools in Arkansas based on ACT Aspire ELA Growth

	School (District)	Region	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Booneville High (Booneville)	Northwest	10-12	67%	63	85.28
2	Danville High (Danville)	Northwest	9-12	71%	115	85.09
3	Berryville High (Berryville)	Northwest	9-12	69%	253	84.69
4	Decatur High (Decatur)	Northwest	9-12	71%	70	84.47
5	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	Northeast	9-12	72%	176	84.17
6	Dermott High (Dermott)	Southeast	7-12	94%	90	83.51
7	Oark High (Jasper)	Northwest	7-12	85%	41	83.43
8	Hector High (Hector)	Northwest	7-12	72%	204	83.00
9	Greenland High (Greenland)	Northwest	9-12	66%	131	82.93
10	Highland High (Highland)	Northeast	9-12	71%	226	82.91

Tables 89-93: Top 5 **High-Poverty** High Schools in Arkansas by Region, **ELA Growth**



Table 89: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Northwest** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Booneville High (Booneville)	10-12	67%	63	85.28
2	Danville High (Danville)	9-12	71%	115	85.09
3	Berryville High (Berryville)	9-12	69%	253	84.69
4	Decatur High (Decatur)	9-12	71%	70	84.47
5	Oark High (Jasper)	7-12	85%	41	83.43



Table 90: Top 5 “High-Poverty” Middle Schools in **Northeast** Region based on **ELA ACT Aspire Growth**

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Cave City High Career & Collegiate Preparatory (Cave City)	9-12	72%	176	84.17
2	Highland High (Highland)	9-12	71%	226	82.91
3	The Academies of West Memphis Charter (West Memphis)	10-12	72%	314	82.88
4	Marked Tree High (Marked Tree)	7-12	71%	144	82.48
5	Rural Special High (Mountain View)	7-12	67%	52	82.14



Table 91: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Central** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Pine Bluff High (Pine Bluff)	10-12	78%	202	82.76
2	Dollarway High (Pine Bluff)	10-12	90%	48	82.62
3	LISA Academy West High (LISA Academy)	9-12	67%	202	82.61
4	Hot Springs World Class High (Hot Springs)	10-12	73%	220	81.48
5	Little Rock Hall STEAM Magnet High (Little Rock)	9-12	76%	180	80.64



Table 92: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in **Southwest** Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Umpire K-12 (Cossatot River)	K-12	77%	53	82.54
2	Bearden High (Bearden)	7-12	70%	151	82.29
3	Prescott High (Prescott)	9-12	68%	152	82.19
4	Nevada High (Nevada)	7-12	74%	115	82.18
5	Junction City High (Junction City)	7-12	68%	200	81.52



Table 93: Top 5 “High-Poverty” High Schools in *Southeast* Region based on ELA ACT Aspire Growth

	School (District)	Grades Served	% FRL	# of Test Takers	ELA Content Growth
1	Dermott High (Dermott)	7-12	94%	90	83.51
2	Lakeside High (Lakeside (Chicot))	9-12	78%	133	82.32
3	KIPP Delta Collegiate High (KIPP Delta)	9-12	88%	94	81.94
4	Hermitage High (Hermitage)	7-12	68%	131	81.80
5	Lee High (Lee County)	7-12	87%	172	81.71

Appendix

A. Methods

All data used in this report were obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education via the link <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/Plus/Schools>.

We generated a statewide report for the 2022-23 school year, using the ESSA School Index report. Values included

- Grade Range
- Grade Span (School Level)
- Poverty Rate
- Combined Content Growth Score Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Current Year
- Combined Content Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined Math Growth Score Number of Students Current Year
- Combined ELA Growth Score Number of Students Current Year

Notes:

- When charter systems are located in a different geographic region than an associated charter school, we determine region based on school location.
- OEP Awards are limited to schools with at least 10 students included in the growth calculation.

For more information about how school levels were assigned, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126142421_Grade%20Spans%20and%20Grade%20Configurations%20rv%201%2024%2020.pdf

For more information about how growth values were calculated, see https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/20201126144918_School%20Growth%20Explanation%20for%20ES%20and%20DC%20111017.pdf